

Serial No. 10/691,322
Page 4

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 13, 2005, wherein Claims 1-10 were rejected. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended and Claim 11 has been added, Claims 1-11 remain pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102 as being anticipated by Bolz et al. The Examiner stated that Bolz et al. discloses an electronically controlled switch S3 coupled to the first battery and a second battery. Applicants direct the Examiner to Figure 4 and column 9, lines 1-0 of the Bolz et al. specification. A DC/DC converter electrically couples B2 and B1 through switch S3. Batteries B2 and B1 do not share a common electrical node or voltage reference. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 9 to better describe the present invention with first and second batteries sharing a common electrical node and/or direct electrical connection upon closure of the electronically controlled switch. Bolz et al. does not teach or suggest the newly amended claims.

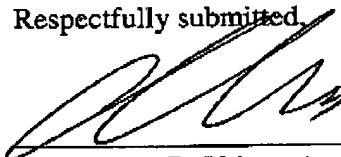
Serial No. 10/691,322
Page 5

Conclusion

The entire Office Action dated September 13, 2005 has been carefully reviewed, and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to call the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Please charge any fees which may be due, to Deposit Account No. 07-0960.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher DeVries - Attorney
Reg. No. 44,654
Telephone: 313-665-4969

CD:sh